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Letter dated 30 January 2015 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and with reference to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1977 (2011), I have the honour to submit the fourteenth programme of work of the Committee, covering the period from 1 February 2015 to 30 January 2016 (see annex).

The Committee would appreciate it if this letter and its annex were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun Marchesi**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

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Annex

Programme of work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for the period from 1 February 2015 to 31 January 2016

I. Introduction

1. The Security Council, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1977 (2011), decided that the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) should submit an annual programme of work to the Council before the end of May of each year. The fourteenth programme of work of the Committee covers the period from 1 February 2015 to 31 January 2016. The Committee has agreed on the following work programme to fulfil its responsibilities under Council resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011).

2. The Security Council, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 1977 (2011), decided that the Committee should continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) through its programme of work. This includes the compilation and general examination of information on the status of States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in addition to States' efforts at outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation, and addresses in particular all aspects of paragraphs 1 to 3 of that resolution, which encompasses accountability, physical protection, border controls and law enforcement efforts, and national export and trans-shipment controls, including controls on providing funds and services such as financing to such exports and trans-shipments. It also includes, as necessary, specific priorities for its work, taking into account its annual review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), prepared with the assistance of the group of experts before the end of December each year.

3. The Committee will continue to work with Member States on the implementation of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), guided by the principles of transparency, equal treatment, cooperation and consistency in its approach.

4. In order to implement the fourteenth programme of work more efficiently, the Committee will continue to operate a system of four working groups, open to all its members. Each working group has specific tasks related to the programme of work, which are noted within each of the main sections below. Each working group will be chaired by a member of the Committee and support will be provided by the Secretariat and the Committee's group of experts. In addition, the Committee will publish a schedule for periodic meetings of all four working groups that strives to meet its objectives efficiently and promptly. Such a schedule will include periodic feedback from the four working groups.

5. All working group meetings will be open to and announced to all Council delegations. All related documents will be circulated to all Council delegations prior to meetings. The work will be organized in a manner that enables all delegations, regardless of size, to participate fully in all the activities of the working groups. The Committee will promote greater transparency by, where relevant, holding open meetings on those working group outcomes approved by the Committee and by communicating those outcomes to national contact points. The Committee, in

cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, will also update its website regularly on the work of those groups.

II. Comprehensive review 2016

6. The comprehensive review of resolution 1540 (2004) that is due to be submitted to the Security Council before December 2016 is a vital milestone in the history of the resolution. Underpinning all of the activities described below, in 2015 the Committee should develop a plan that will identify the objectives, scope, timing, and participants of this process by mid-2015. This should include consideration of any extraordinary meetings that might be required to coordinate these activities. Where appropriate, the Committee and its experts might draw on outside expertise to assist in these efforts, including the support of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other United Nations bodies.

7. The members of the Group of Experts are tasked to prepare a non-paper on the conduct of the comprehensive review for the Chair of the Committee by 28 February 2015 to support these efforts. The Committee, with the assistance of its experts, should also develop and begin the execution of a strategy based on this plan no later than 31 August 2015, while retaining flexibility to adapt activities as needed.

III. Tasks of the Committee and its four working groups

8. The Committee will focus its attention on, but not limit it to, the following main areas of work: (a) monitoring and national implementation; (b) assistance; (c) cooperation with international organizations, including the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001); and (d) transparency and media outreach. In addition, the Committee will consider issues related to administration and resources.

Monitoring and national implementation

9. In the area of monitoring and national implementation, the Committee will:

(a) Prepare a review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) before 31 December 2015, in line with the requirements of paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011), and address all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular all aspects of its paragraphs 1 to 3, including developing and maintaining efforts to implement the resolution in accordance with national legal authorities and legislation, and consistent with international law. The review should include a brief update on the status of implementation of the tasks contained in the current programme of work and, as necessary, specific priorities of the next programme of work. To increase the effectiveness of future reviews, in 2015 more emphasis should be given to analysis of trends in implementation, and to providing more insights and data regarding implementation activities by Member States;

(b) With the objective of achieving universal reporting as soon as possible, continue to strengthen efforts to encourage the remaining 20 Member States that

have not yet submitted their first report to do so, including by assessing which practices have been most effective at stimulating national reporting;

(c) Encourage expansion of the network of points of contact for resolution 1540 (2004) and complete work to develop a strategy to make the best use of the network, including consideration of regional and geographic meetings; the development of training courses, conducted at the regional level for points of contact, merits consideration in accordance with Committee strategy and objectives;

(d) Review the matrices for all States Members of the United Nations by 30 June 2015 to allow the information to be reflected in the annual review of implementation; continue to update and maintain the matrices as "living documents" using relevant agreed sources of information; make the matrices available to States; and encourage States to strengthen their efforts to regularly share with the Committee information that updates their efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004). In 2015 the Committee should also consider how to avoid lengthy gaps in the updating of the matrices, such as a continuous process of revision and Committee approval according to a schedule for all 193 Member States, and to find more efficient ways of consulting States on their matrices;

(e) Continue to encourage States, in line with paragraphs 7 and 12 of resolution 1977 (2011), to identify and voluntarily report effective national practices in implementing resolution 1540 (2004), and continue the practice of sharing compilations of effective best practices periodically;

(f) Encourage all States, under paragraph 8 of resolution 1977 (2011), to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the Committee;

(g) Continue to raise awareness about those multilateral treaties and conventions that aim to prevent the proliferation of, or to eliminate, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and, in the context of paragraph 8 (a) of resolution 1540 (2004), to promote the universal adoption and full implementation and, where necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties to which States are parties, whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons;

(h) Continue consideration of the obligations and requirements under resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011) to identify areas for further work by the Committee, and encourage implementation and review progress in such areas through active cooperation with relevant States, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations where appropriate;

(i) Consider more fully the role of the Committee in supporting State implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the light of the changing nature of proliferation threats, by better informing the Committee on issues in fields such as information and communications technologies and intangible technology transfers, by means of a dedicated Committee meeting to analyse and review those issues, including as appropriate external speakers, with a view to having States generate best practice recommendations.

Assistance

10. In the area of assistance, the Committee will:

(a) Continue to collect an up-to-date list of requests for or interest in assistance by States and offers of, interest in and programmes of assistance by States and international, regional and subregional organizations; create a public list of possible forms of assistance including actual examples to illustrate methods of assistance; and maintain a regularly updated database on requests for and offers of assistance, and where these have been matched;

(b) Review requests, offers and related assistance programmes to develop more effective matching strategies;

(c) Consider ways to better provide assistance, especially as a real-time response to requests made during dialogue with States, such as finding and using additional resources, including potentially the use of the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Affairs;

(d) With input from the Committee's working group on assistance and from its working group on cooperation with international organizations, including the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Committee established pursuant to 1373 (2001), where appropriate, continue to organize and participate in outreach activity at the international, regional and subregional levels; be prepared to emphasize and engage on assistance programmes, promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices, and be ready to facilitate offers of or requests for assistance;

(e) Work with Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations to help them to make more effective offers of, or, for States (or groups of States), more effective requests for assistance;

(f) Consider regional approaches to assistance needs and efforts to meet them, including requests for assistance made through regional organizations, or jointly by States members of customs unions, free trade zones, or zones free of nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction, as well as through regional assistance meetings;

(g) Provide an update on the status of assistance requests and offers to the Committee on a regular basis, no less frequently than every quarter.

Cooperation with international organizations and other relevant United Nations bodies, including the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001)

11. With respect to cooperation with international organizations and other relevant United Nations bodies, including the Security Council Committees pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), the Committee will:

(a) Continue to enhance its cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant United Nations bodies, and develop ways of operating with those organizations on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate programmatically reflecting the variation in each organization's capacity and mandate, including exchanges at the working level, briefings to and from the Committee, and enhanced information-sharing arrangements;

(b) To help achieve this objective, establish a set of strategic goals and specific objectives for its work with the international, regional and subregional organizations drawing on the existing strategy non-paper;[1] this strategy should be further developed to focus on the exchange of information on actions taken to foster effective implementation of the resolution, points of contact and effective practices and assistance, against which the Committee can review its efforts in subsequent programmes of work;

(c) Under paragraph 18 of resolution 1977 (2011), continue to encourage international, regional and subregional organizations to designate and provide a point of contact or coordinator for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and maintain up-to-date information on such contacts;

(d) Maintain dialogue and information exchange with designated points of contact or coordinators on issues related to their contribution to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

(e) Where directly relevant to the goals of the Committee's programme of work, continue to participate in major events organized by international, regional and subregional organizations as an opportunity for dialogue with them and their points of contact or coordinators;

(f) Continue to explore opportunities for synergies with the related Committees, their experts and monitoring teams, and where appropriate, participate in joint visits and in joint direct interactions with States; to enhance such cooperation in future, consider producing a short assessment, with recommendations, on those synergies and joint visits;

(g) Continue to participate in the joint briefings to the Security Council;

(h) As appropriate, expand both formal and informal working relationships with international non-proliferation mechanisms, including zones free of nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction, work streams to implement decisions of the three nuclear security summits, the Implementation Support Unit for the Biological Weapons Convention and the non-proliferation aspect of the Global Health Security Agenda and other United Nations bodies and international, regional and subregional organizations, where applicable:

(i) To facilitate the sharing of information on effective practices and lessons learned, in addition to templates and guidance, including with a view to their incorporation into the compilation envisaged in subparagraph 9 (e) above;

(ii) To identify assistance requirements and programmes whereby its work with international, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant United Nations bodies can focus on facilitating the activity of those organizations to remedy national implementation challenges, such as reconciling priorities, harmonizing approaches, facilitating advisory and drafting services, and matching requests and offers of assistance, and to promote regional cooperation and communication on the implementation of the resolution;

[1] Prepared by the Coordinator of the Working Group on Cooperation with International Organizations (S/AC.44/2014/NOTE.138 of 3 July 2014).

(iii) To enhance information-sharing, coordination on visits to countries, within their respective mandates, technical assistance and other issues of relevance to the Committee and the Security Council Committees pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), as appropriate.

Transparency and media outreach

12. In the areas of transparency and media outreach, the Committee will:

(a) Increase interaction on a regular basis with all States Members of the United Nations, including, where appropriate, through open meetings as noted in paragraph 20 of resolution 1977 (2011), and by regularly updating its website;

(b) With input from the working group on monitoring and national implementation, post Committee approved updated matrices on the website, as appropriate, after allowing States to comment on their matrices before final versions are posted on the website;

(c) Publish on the Committee's website the calendar of outreach events and workshops conducted, sponsored or co-sponsored by the Committee or Member States, in addition to information notes on such activities, and update and maintain a list of frequently asked questions;

(d) Produce and update regularly, at least monthly, a calendar of outreach events or similar activities, covering periods of at least six months into the future, that includes information on other activities of relevant States, international, regional and subregional organizations, the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and other United Nations bodies;

(e) Encourage States to promote dialogue and cooperation, including with civil society and academia, to address the threat posed by illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and related materials;

(f) Encourage States to develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry regarding its obligations under national laws in line with subparagraph 8 (d) of resolution 1540 (2004);

(g) Consider and seize opportunities, as appropriate, for direct interaction, with the consent of the State concerned, with relevant industries and industry groups, academia and civil society;

(h) Continue to increase efforts to raise awareness among parliamentarians and other high-level decision makers. In 2015 the Committee should make a special effort to engage with appropriate parliamentary institutions such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to raise awareness of resolution 1540 (2014) and its legislative requirements;

(i) In line with subparagraphs 5 (b) and 22 (d) of resolution 1977 (2011), consider ways to better utilize and maintain expertise, including, in particular, of former experts of the group, that could be made available for specific missions and assistance needs regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

(j) Continue to brief the Security Council, Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations, formally and informally, about the work of the Committee and the obligations and requirements under resolution 1540 (2004);

(k) In order to maximize the visibility of the website dedicated to resolution 1540 (2004), Members should, no later than mid-2015, examine relevant data on website traffic and social media interactions, with a view to developing recommendations for further outreach.

IV. Administration and resources

13. In its consideration of issues related to administration and resources, the Committee will, inter alia:

(a) Encourage the Office for Disarmament Affairs to continue to strengthen the regional capacity of the Office to provide support for the implementation of the resolution;

(b) Continue to conduct regular meetings of the Committee and its working groups and, as necessary, additional meetings with relevant parties to further the mandate of resolution 1540 (2004), including meetings that might require participation from capitals on topics of high priority;

(c) Encourage States and international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to provide support for the work of the Committee and its programmes;

(d) Continue to encourage and take full advantage of voluntary financial contributions to assist States in identifying and addressing their needs for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and, at the Committee's discretion, promote the efficient and effective use of the existing funding mechanisms within the United Nations system;

(e) Continue its efforts to ease the transition of new non-permanent members to the Committee, including by making relevant documentation available and providing appropriate briefings, and maintain the network of non-permanent members leaving the Committee to provide support for implementation of the resolution;

(f) On all aspects of the Committee's work, consider what methodologies might be appropriate to produce quantitative measures of success within the terms of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), including examining options for technical support for allowing better analysis of the data and facilitating reporting through an electronic search tool.